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LETTER FROM PREMIER KHRUSHCHEV.  
TO: SECRETARY GENERAL U THANT.  
IN REPLY TO HIS LETTER OF:  
OCTOBER 26, 1962

(Unofficial Version)

Dear U Thant:

I have received and studied your telegram of 25 October. I understand your anxiety for the preservation of peace, and I appreciate highly your efforts to avert military conflict.

Indeed, if any conflict should arise on the approaches to Cuba--and this may become unavoidable as a result of the piratical measures taken by the United States--this would beyond question seriously complicate the endeavors to initiate contacts in order to put an end, on a basis of negotiation, to the critical situation that has now been thrust on the world by the aggressive actions of the United States.

We therefore accept your proposal, and have ordered the masters of Soviet vessels bound for Cuba but not yet within the area of the American warships' piratical activities to stay out of the interception area, as you recommend.

But we have given this order in the hope that the other side will understand that such a situation, in which we keep vessels immobilized on the high seas, must be a purely temporary one; the period cannot under any circumstances be of long duration.

I thank you for your efforts and wish you success in your noble task. Your efforts to ensure world peace will always meet with understanding and support on our part.

The Soviet Government has consistently striven, and is striving, to strengthen the United Nations--that international organization which constitutes a forum for all countries of the world, regardless of their socio-political structure, in order that disputes arising may be settled not through war but through negotiations.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

October 26, 1962

/s/ N. Khrushchev  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MB

REVIEWED BY: [Signature] DATE: 5/19/85

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Control: 19467

Recd: OCTOBER 28, 1962

11:06 AM

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Action

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Info

FROM: NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/600/EX

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TO: Secretary of State

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RMR

NO: 1516, OCTOBER 28, 11 AM

CUBA

FOL FOR RECORD IS TEXT KHRUSHCHEV'S REPLY TO SECOND U  
THANT LETTER AS TELEPHONED TO DEPT FRIDAY EVENING:

DEAR U THANT,

I HAVE RECEIVED AND STUDIED YOUR TELEGRAM OF 25 OCTOBER.  
I UNDERSTAND YOUR ANXIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE, AND  
I APPRECIATE HIGHLY YOUR EFFORTS TO AVERT MILITARY CONFLICT.

INDEED, IF ANY CONFLICT SHOULD ARISE ON THE APPROACHES TO  
CUBA - AND THIS MAY BECOME UNAVOIDABLE AS A RESULT OF THE  
PIRATICAL MEASURES TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES - THIS WOULD  
BEYOND QUESTION SERIOUSLY COMPLICATE THE ENDEAVORS TO INITIATE  
CONTACTS IN ORDER TO PUT AN END, ON A BASIS OF NEGOTIATION,  
TO THE CRITICAL SITUATION THAT HAS NOW BEEN THRUST ON THE  
WORLD BY THE AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES.

WE THEREFORE ACCEPT YOUR PROPOSAL, AND HAVE ORDERED THE MASTERS  
OF SOVIET VESSELS BOUND FOR CUBA BUT NOT YET WITHIN THE AREA OF  
THE AMERICAN WARSHIPS' PIRATICAL ACTIVITIES TO STAY OUT OF THE  
INTERCEPTION AREA, AS YOU RECOMMEND.

BUT WE HAVE GIVEN THIS ORDER IN THE HOPE THAT THE OTHER SIDE  
WILL UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH A SITUATION, IN WHICH WE  
KEEP VESSELS IMMOBILIZED ON THE HIGH SEAS, MUST BE A PURELY  
TEMPORARY ONE. THE PERIOD CANNOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BE  
OF LONG DURATION.

I THANK YOU

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-2- 1516. OCTOBER 28, 11 AM, FROM NEW YORK.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS AND WISH YOU SUCCESS IN YOUR NOBLE TASK. YOUR EFFORTS TO ENSURE WORLD PEACE WILL ALWAYS MEET WITH UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT ON OUR PART.

THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY STRIVEN, AND IS STRIVING, TO STRENGTHEN THE UNITED NATIONS - THAT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION WHICH CONSTITUTES A FORUM FOR ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, REGARDLESS OF THEIR SOCIO-POLITICAL STRUCTURE, IN ORDER THAT DISPUTES ARISING MAY BE SETTLED NOT THROUGH WAR BUT THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.  
N. KHRUSHCHEV  
26 OCT 1962

STEVENSON

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NOTE: Advance copy SSO 12N 10/28/CWO-JSW

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